

Titzell

QUANTNESS
PEACEABLE STREET
GEORGETOWN, CONNECTICUT

August 18, 1948

Dearest Laura:-

When I have had such deep delight in your temples I mean Temples of Yucatan, and looked and looked at the pictures, you might think I would have the rudimentary gratitude to tell you so -- but not I! There really has been a reason; I really have been too ill for a long time to cope with letters, and my desk is a disgrace. Some day they will have to tie a brandy-flask to Mr. Bumps the spaniel and send him to search for me, lost in the high Alps of unanswered letters. Now -- I believe, I hope -- I am really, slowly but surely, coming back to being myself again, whatever that condition may be. And you are one of the very first I want to write to, partly because I think of you so often, and hope so very much for you, and wonder how life is going for you, and partly to tell you what a magnificent job I think you have done with the Temples. I gave a copy of your book to a friend of mine who is a painter, and had painted over that country, even some of the exact subjects you photographed -- one of his best is the Ring in the Great Ball Court -- and he loves and admires and treasures your book. The one I have gone back to and gone back to, for love of it and the courage it really gives, is one with no title, the wall and the cloud and the rays of light, on page 107.

And one that I delight in, because it makes me laugh, although perhaps it shouldn't, is the yellow Chac Mool on page 77, because it looks just like me when my nurse comes in with a bright smile and a long needle to give me another shot of liver extract -- apprehensive and uncomfortable.

Speaking of nurse, who has really pulled me back to life by main force, I wonder if you would have time and inclination to undertake a job for me? I want to give her, at Christmas, something that she will really love. Two of her passions are the South-west, where she has never been, but yearns towards, reads about, gazes at pictures of; and burros. Would you have time to make a set of photographs of burros (should that be burroses?) for me to give her? Maybe there could be some baby ones among them? MAYBE there could be one, although that would have to come later, I suppose, of one, or some, bedecked for the Christmas parade. And some loose and free, and some, perhaps, carrying pinon wood? With any sort of New Mexican background? If you would and could, and would charge me HIGHLY for them, I would be so grateful.

Affectionate greetings to Betsy, and lots of love to you always from

Ann

*I feel guilty, remembering that you said
small orders deflated you --*